

AMERICAN WOMEN'S HISTORY TIMELINE

- **1848** Seneca Falls: first **Women's Rights** Convention
- **1850** Female **Medical College** of Pennsylvania established
- **1869** Abolitionists and suffragists alliance collapses
because **women did not get the vote** in the 15th Amendment
- **1890** General **Federation of (white)Women's Clubs** established
- **1896** National **Association of Colored Women** founded
- **1916** Jeannette Rankin, **first woman elected to Congress** from Montana
- **1920** After a 70-year struggle, **Nineteenth Amendment ratified** allowing women to vote
- **1932** Frances Perkins **first woman cabinet member** as Secretary of Labor
- **1941** **World War II** women's **participation in work force** increases by 60%;
all **military branches create women's divisions**
- **1945** Women forced to **retreat from labor force**
- **1955** After Rosa Parks is arrested, **Joanne Robinson**, president of the
local **Women's Political Council** organizes bus boycott
- **1960** Food and Drug Administration approves **birth control pill**
- **1962** Although 13 women qualified, **NASA** decides **not to select any
women astronauts**
- **1963** Gerda Lerner teaches **first women's history course**
- **1964** **Title VII** of the Civil Rights Act amended to include **discrimination
based on sex**
- **1972** **Title IX** requires **gender equity in every educational program**
that receives federal funding
- **1973** U.S. Supreme Court establishes women's **right to legal abortion**
- **1981** Sandra Day O' Connor sworn in **first woman Supreme Court justice**
- **1982** The **ERA** fails to be ratified
- **1983** Sally Ride becomes **first American woman in space**

- **1993** Family and **Medical Leave Act** signed
- **1994** **Violence Against Women Act** passed
- **1996** Madeleine Albright, **first woman Secretary of State**
- **2007** Nancy Pelosi, **first woman Speaker of the House**
- **2009** Lilly Ledbetter **Fair Pay Act** signed into law